

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02156 171205Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7284

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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DEPT AND GENEVA PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY AND AMBASSADOR
STOESSEL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02156 171205Z

USIA FOR IOP/M

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY FEBRUARY 17

1. TASS STATEMENT ON CYPRUS. PRAVDA CARRIES THE STATEMENT ON PAGE 3 (EARLIER GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON CYPRUS HAD BEEN FRONT-PAGED). THE STATEMENT CRITICIZED THE TURKISH CYPRIOT UNILATERAL ACTION, CONDEMNS "CERTAIN NATO CIRCLES" FOR TRYING TO PARTITION THE ISLAND, AND REVIVES THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS. IT DOES NOT EXPLICITLY CRITICIZE OR MENTION TURKEY, THE UK, OR THE U.S.; AND, IN REFERRING TO THE "LAWFULLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS," IT DOES NOT MENTION MAKARIOS.

2. MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA RUNS A TASS ACCOUNT OF EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S INTERVIEW WITH THE BEIRUT PAPER AL-HAYAT. THE TASS VERSION LETS SOVIET READERS IN ON THE FACT THAT THERE MAY BE A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT NOT ONLY IN SINAI BUT ON GOLAN AS WELL. IT QUOTES FAHMY AS SAYING THAT THE AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE SIGNED BEFORE JUNE AND THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE SHOULD CONVENE RIGHT AFTER THAT--A MORE RELAXED TIME-FRAME FOR GENEVA THAN THE SOVIET PRESS HAS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED PUBLICLY. HOWEVER, TASS OMITTS FAHMY'S ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH THE DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS AS WELL AS FAHMY'S STATEMENT THAT GENEVA WOULD RECONVENE "POSSIBLY AROUND MID-1975."

3. ARAFAT. PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS PIECE ON THE PLO LEADER'S MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE TO BREZHNEV FOR HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS IN HIS FEBRUARY 14 LUNCHEON SPEECH DURING THE WILSON VISIT.

4. KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING. PRAVDA NOTES GROMYKO'S ARRIVAL IN GENEVA FOR THE BILATERAL TALKS. NO SUBJECTS FOR THE TALKS ARE GIVEN, THOUGH GROMYKO'S INDIRECT ALLUSION TO CSCE AND SALT ("WE INTEND TO FAMILIARIZE OURSELVES WITH WHAT IS GENERALLY GOING ON HERE IN GENEVA") IS CARRIED. THE SECRETARY'S MEETINGS IN BONN WITH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER ARE NOTED IN A SHORT TASS ITEM.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02156 171205Z

5. OTHER U.S. COVERAGE. AS USUAL, A MIXED BAG, WITH A PROVDA ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTURE OF A SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION FOR WASHINGTON BALANCED BY A PIECE ON POLICE CORRUPTION IN NEW YORK AND A CARTOON SHOWING THE PENTAGON MAKING HOLES IN THE U.S. BUDGET.

6. PORTUGAL. PRAVDA RECORDS THE DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR OF A

PORTUGUESE BUSINESS DELEGATION HEADED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIES OF OPORTO. NO DETAILS ARE GIVEN ON ITS DISCUSSIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND OTHER SOVIET ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS.

7. CHINA. PRAVDA PICKS UP AN AP STORY THAT THE PRC IS BUILDING CAPITAL INSTALLATIONS FOR OIL PROSPECTING ON THE PARACEL ISLANDS AND THAT WESTERN DIPLOMATS CONSIDER THIS AN ESTABLISHMENT OF CHINESE MILITARY PRESENCE ON THE ISLANDS.

8. MBFR. A PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY IGOR MELNIKOV DESCRIBES THE SOVIET FREEZE PROPOSAL IN STANDARD TERMS, WITHOUT NOTING THAT IT HAS ALREADY BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE WEST.

9. WILSON VISIT. THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LENINGRAD IS RECOUNTED ON PAGE ONE OF PRAVDA.
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